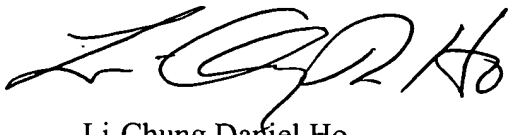
The attached page is captioned "Version with marking to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The following new paragraph has been added beginning at page 1, line 2:

This invention is based on a foreign priority application, Italian Patent Application No. SV 99A 000 038, filed on December 1, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A pipe according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 ~~and 2~~, wherein the dimension of the thickness of the wall is much greater than the dimension of the bore diameter~~, i.e. the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter~~.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein ~~both the surfaces, i.e.~~ internal surface and external surface~~,~~ are subjected to a nitriding or carbonitriding treatment.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a number of functions greater than that of merely conveying fluid~~, such as, for example, a manifold element or the like, in particular a manifold used in so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines~~.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a number of functions greater than that of merely conveying fluid~~, such as, for example, a manifold element or the like, in particular a manifold for so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines, is envisaged~~.

The following new claims 23-29 have been added:

23. A pipe according to claim 3, wherein the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter.

24. A pipe according to claim 2, wherein the dimension of the thickness of the wall is much greater than the dimension of the bore diameter.

25. A pipe according to claim 24, wherein the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter.

26. A method according to claim 20, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a function of a manifold element or the like.

27. A method according to claim 26, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a function of a manifold for so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines.

28. A pipe according to claim 11, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a function of a manifold element or the like.

29. A pipe according to claim 28, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a function of a manifold used in so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines.